

EXTENSION EDUCATION EVENTS

Extension Education Events (EEE) is a series of free and exciting classes that take environmental stewardship principles out into the community. The effort began in April of 2004 with a program called Extension Education Nights (EEN). This monthly educational series took place in the evenings at the WSE KCE office. Overall, EEN were successful; however faculty and staff believed that we could have increased success by taking these monthly events directly into the communities of King County. We implemented this change in 2005 and the results have been positive. Average atten-



A workshop attendee investigates a find during a recent class on beneficial insects.

Photo: T. Zimmerman

dance has more than doubled and this approach has fostered much collaboration with local cities and non-profits in King County. These educational events focusing on our local environment have been popular with the public. They help individuals understand what they can do to care for and protect our water, land, forest and local food systems. Ideas for educational topics are solicited from attendees in the form of a question on the workshop evaluations. The new ideas are added to a list which faculty and staff evaluate for topic relevance and alignment with program goals.

Objectives/Goals

- Provide outreach to communities in King County
- Promote environmental stewardship
- Engage new people in Extension programs
- Offer continuing education credit for WSU volunteers

2005 Workshops To Date

January: Hay Workshop: Product Quality & Animal Health
Enumclaw - 35 Participants

February: Biosolids Composts, & Manures as Soil Amendments for Gardens and Landscapes
Renton - 24 Participants

March: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) – Reasons and Resources for Eating Locally
Bellevue - 10 Participants

April: Reap What You Sow: An Introduction to Vegetable Gardening
Seattle - 24 Participants

May: Household Hens: Raising Chickens in Your Backyard
Issaquah - 51 Participants

June: Meet the Beach: Exploring Puget Sound at Low Tide
Seattle - 11 Participants

2005 Collaborations

- Seattle Tilth Association
- Center for Urban Horticulture
- Issaquah Grange Supply
- Spirit Ridge Elementary School
- Seattle Aquarium Beach Naturalists
- Pike Place Market Basket CSA
- Full Circle Farm
- Dog Mountain Farm
- Jubilee Farm



Class participants learning about our environment on a Saturday morning.

Photo: T. Zimmerman

Taking extension education out into the community.



Participants in the Beneficial Insects workshop sweeping for insects at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Photo: T. Murray

2005 Successes

- Extension Education Events have drawn more than 160 program participants from 21 King County cities so far this year.
- Attendance has more than doubled since we began taking our programs into the communities.
- The program has also drawn people from numerous cities outside of King County.

Upcoming topics for 2005

July: Seattle

Beneficial Insects in Your Backyard

August: Burien

Pest Proofing Your Home and Yard

September: Auburn

Yard Waste and Food Waste Composting

October: Seatac

Inviting Wildlife into Your Backyard

November: Redmond

Building Skills for working with Diverse Audiences

December: Des Moines

Puget Sound Geology

Marketing & Promotion

TV – NW Cable News

Radio – KUOW

Community list serves

Email distribution

Newspapers

Newsletters



A workshop participant investigates aquatic life at the Seattle Aquarium during May's Meet the Beach event.

Photo: T. Zimmerman

Testimonials

This was a very good class. Handouts & activities outside were helpful.

Thanks! The information was great & presented in an interesting way.

Thank you very much for hosting this free class!!

Thanks so much for this class. It's nice to have programs like this here in my neighborhood!

I learned alot of things that I can take home and apply in my backyard today. Thanks so much!

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